

THIRSK  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1948.



# THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1948.



MR. CHAIRMAN & GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the Year 1948. The period under review has been a satisfactory one from the Public Health point of view. There was no epidemic of note and such cases of Infectious Disease notified never assumed Epidemic Form. During the year the National Health Service Act became operative, resulting in certain changes in Public Health Administration, whereby the carrying out of several public health duties and the recording of them became centralised for the Area of the North Riding.

I would like to record here the very willing assistance given me by the Clerk, the Sanitary Inspector, the Additional Sanitary Inspector and by indeed, all the members of the Council's Staff.

### Public Health Staff.

Clerk (full time): W. A. Wilkinson.

Medical Officer of Health (part time): W. G. MacArthur.

Sanitary Inspector (full time): F. Metcalfe.

Additional Sanitary Inspector (full time): R. M. Sharphouse.

### SECTION A.

#### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	71,544
Estimated residential population (R.G's figures)				12,380
Number of inhabited houses			...	3,630
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£70,155
Sum represented by a penny rate			...	£298

## Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
Live Births—	241	121	120	Birth Rate per
Legitimate	223	112	111	1000 of the
Illegitimate	18	9	9	population 19.45
Still Births—	5	4	1	Rate per 1000
Legitimate	4	3	1	of all
Illegitimate	1	1	—	Birth 20.74
Deaths—	159	83	76	Death Rate per
				1000 of the
Deaths from puerperal cases —				population 12.84
(from the R.G's short list)				
No. 29 Puerperal and post abortive sepsis				Nil
No. 30 Other maternal causes			...	1

### Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
Total Deaths	5	4	
„ „ Legitimate	4	4	
„ „ Illegitimate	1	—	
All Infants per 1000 live births			37.34
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births			35.87
Illegitimate Infants „ illegitimate „			4.93
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			
(Headings 13—16 inclusive)			16
Deaths from Measles (all ages) (Heading 10)			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) (Heading 4)			Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) (Heading 25)			Nil
Deaths from Poliomyelitis & Polio-Enceph (Heading 11)			1

## SECTION B.

### 1. Public Health Staff.

See above.

### 2 (a) Laboratory Facilities.

As in previous years this is done for us at the Laboratory at the County Hall, Northallerton.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

The provision for the transport of the sick has been taken over by the County Council and is by Ambulance or Sitting Case Car. The Ambulance that the Council bought and maintained is still located at the Council's premises and, although serving a wider area, the provision of ambulance facilities is satisfactory.

(c) Nursing in the home.

Although provision of nursing in the home was never undertaken by this Council, I would here note that all home nursing provision is under the County Council, the local nursing societies—many of them on a voluntary or semi-voluntary basis—having been cancelled out.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Council have no control over any of these.

(e) Hospitals.

With the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, provision of hospital treatment is now completely undertaken by the State.

**For Sections C. D. and E. see the accompanying report  
of the Sanitary Inspector.**

## **SECTION F.**

### **Prevalance of and control over infectious and other diseases.**

Diphtheria. Again, as in last year, no case of Diphtheria was notified.

Scarlet Fever. 6 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified; five of these were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, the sixth was nursed at home. All were mild and there was no epidemic.

Measles. No case of Measles was notified.

Pneumonia. Two cases were notified during the year.

Puerperal Fever & Ophthalmia Neonatorum. One case of Puerperal Fever was notified and one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Whooping Cough. One case was notified.

### Notifiable Diseases during the year.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	6	5	Nil
Pneumonia	2	Nil	Nil
Anterior Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil	1*
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	Nil

\*The death from Anterior Poliomyelitis was of a case reported in 1947.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Disease Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Disease Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Disease Pneumonia</i>	<i>Disease Puerperal Fever</i>
1-2	—	—	—	—
2-3	—	1	—	—
3-4	—	—	—	—
4-5	3	—	—	—
5-10	2	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	—
15-25	1	—	—	—
25-45	—	—	2	1
45-65	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—

3. Cancer. No action taken.

4. (a) Prevention of Blindness. No action taken.

(b) Tuberculosis.

Again it is a pleasure to record the very ready help given by the Tuberculosis Officer in all cases requiring examination and treatment. True it is that much of the domiciliary treatment would be transferred to Sanatoria if there were more ample bed provision possible. Cases are examined at the Clinic at Northallerton or otherwise visited at home.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	1	—	1	3	—	—	1	2
25-35	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45-55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	0	3	4	0	0	1	2

The Registrar's figures show 5 deaths from Tuberculosis—3 of the Respiratory type and 2 of Non-Respiratory. These will no doubt be due to inward death transfers.

### Causes of Deaths in Thirsk Rural District in 1948.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females
6. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	2
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1
11. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1
13. Cancer of Oesophagus	2	—
14. Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	2
16. Other sites—Cancer	7	4
17. Diabetes	—	1
18. Intra cranial Vascular Lesions	10	7
19. Heart Diseases	31	33
20. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	1	5
21. Bronchitis	1	—
22. Pneumonia	3	1
23. Other respiratory diseases	1	—
24. Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases	2	2

28.	Nephritis	2	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	—	1
31.	Premature Birth	3	—
32.	Congenital Malformation Birth Injury		
	Infant dis :	2	3
33.	Suicide	2	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	—	1
35.	Violent Causes other than		
	Road Traffic Accidents	1	3
36.	All other causes	11	8
Totals		83	76

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. MacARTHUR,

Medical Officer of Health.



# THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for the Year 1948.

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MR. CHAIRMAN & GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1948.

Mr. R. M. Sharphouse has, as your Housing Inspector, supplied the information on Housing and generally assisted in the compilation of this Report.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water.** A serious complaint in connection with the Sutton Supply occurred towards the end of the year.

Investigation revealed that one of the springs feeding the reservoir had broken through from the impounding chamber and a certain amount of water was running to waste. Action was promptly taken to prevent a further leakage from this spring by temporary re-impounding until a permanent repair could be carried out.

No extension of water mains was carried out by the Council during the year. Steps were taken for the provision of internal piped water supplies to houses in Thirsk and Sowerby in lieu of stand pipe supplies. It is intended to include all houses in the Council's Area, as labour and materials become more available.

30 examinations of water supplies were made, including 25 chemical analyses. One chemical analysis and five bacteriological examinations were found to be unsatisfactory.

**Drainage and Sewerage.** No new works of sewerage and sewage disposal were carried out during the year; 64 sewers were cleansed or repaired. The need for proper sewage disposal becomes each year more urgent. More houses are becoming modernised with the addition of bathrooms and water closets and although the drainage is in many cases tank treated before discharge into the village sewer or other outfall, the effluent is liable to give rise to nuisance from pollution in ditches and streams where there is any extensive volume of soil drainage.

**Public Cleansing.** The Council undertake the Scavenging over the whole of the Area, the work being carried out by our own vehicles and labour.

The service also includes the emptying of Cesspools for which purpose a Dennis Cesspool Emptier was purchased in 1947 and has since carried out much useful work.

The Cesspool emptier being provided with a night soil attachment is also used in the emptying of closet pails, of which some 500 exist in Thirsk and Sowerby with a similar number in the surrounding district.

In Thirsk and Sowerby, closet pails and dustbins are emptied each week and ashpits and other fixed refuse receptacles monthly.

In the other villages closet pails are cleared weekly, but only a once monthly collection of other refuse has so far been possible throughout much of the district. This causes inconvenience to householders with dustbins and is liable to cause nuisance through accumulations of refuse awaiting removal.

Much of the district is scattered with many out-lying farms and other premises, and this together with long hauls to the disposal point, limits the amount of work that can be undertaken.

At present only one 10 cub. yard Karrier Refuse collector regularly operates on the Country Area. The addition of a further vehicle so as to allow a fortnightly visit to each village is to be recommended in the interests of public health even though this will increase the general cost of Refuse Collection.

In the early part of the year we commenced the use of some old quarries at Birdforth as a refuse tip.

**Salvage.** The Waste Paper Drive in the early part of the year greatly increased our tonnage of waste paper collected. The amount sold being 48 tons 12½ cwts.

Our Refuse Tip at Birdforth of which we have sole control, also yielded much useful salvage in bottles, jam jars, rags, sacking and metal.

The free collection of trade waste from Shops for the salvage of waste paper and cardboard was continued as in previous years, also collections from houses and other premises made on request. The co-operation of the Schools in the area, whereby school children assisted in the collection of waste paper from householders premises in the villages proved of great help and resulted in a good yield of paper salvage.

The total value of salvage sold was approx. £540 and comprised the following:—

Waste Paper 48 tons 12½ cwts., Bottles and Jars 11 tons 18 cwts, Textiles 1 ton 14½ cwts., Metal 2 tons 10¾ cwts., Bones 11½ cwts.

#### Mileages of Vehicles:—

	Water	Sew.	Sal.	Scav.	Est.
Karrier No. 1	501	382	1021	2490	57
„ No. 2	17	9	42	9460	6
„ No. 3	—	—	—	11591	—
Dennis	—	42	—	8887	—
Morris Truck	6443	714	1973	1595	227
Summary —	Water	6,961			
	Sewage	1,147			
	Silvage	3,036			
	Scavenging	34,023			
	Establishment	290			
			<u>Total Miles 45,457</u>		

## Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, Infestation Order, 1943.

Your Rodent Officer carried out the following work during the year :—

Total Inspections made	1947
„ Re-inspections made	755
„ Major Infestations	8
„ Minor Infestations	135

Poisons used were Red Squill, Zinc Phosphide and Arsenious Oxide.

Weight of poison baits used	1846 oz.
Estimated number of Rats destroyed	1982

**Sewers.** The sewers in Thirsk and Sowerby have had maintenance treatment for Rat destruction in accordance with Ministry methods, only small bait takes were noted, mainly due to surface infestations being kept down to a minimum, and the banks of the Codbeck kept under constant observation along its complete course through the town, more especially at the sewer outlets adjoining Finkle Street Bridge. Some side drains in Thirsk show traces of rats occasionally, these are dealt with promptly, this should prevent a considerable waste of food and material to trades-people and householders, as from side drains rats have access to fall pipes and along drain gutters into the roofs of buildings.

In the villages of Thornton-le-Moor, Carlton Miniott, Topcliffe and Langthorpe the sewer outfalls are periodically inspected and any rat infestation dealt with.

**Refuse Tips, etc.** Refuse tips and paper dumps are frequently inspected, the refuse tips generally build up from zero to 100-200 rats about every three months. As rats have good organs for detecting garbage at considerable distances, these refuse tips must be ideal for farmers as a means of keeping a considerable amount of hedge banks and ditches fairly free from rats; these seem to me to be the chief breeding ground for rats at the present time as rats are very partial to sugar beet and laid corn crops, etc., and will stay out in field hedges living on these throughout the winter.

Co-operation with the War Agricultural Executive Committee and Railway Company is maintained for joint action where necessary.

No claim was made against the Council during the year of Animal or Poultry being poisoned.

### Sanitary Inspection of Area.

Total inspections made	...	987
Total re-inspections made	...	237
Inspections of Houses (Public Health and Housing)		11
„ Farm and Dairy Premises		30
„ Food	...	13
„ Factories	...	9
„ Fish and Chip Premises	...	1
„ Keeping of Animals	...	1
„ Infectious Diseases	...	5
„ Conveniences to Public Houses		15

Visits re Vermin	...	4
„ Water Supplies	...	190
„ Drainage	...	97
„ Sewage	...	73
„ Scavenging	...	96
„ Public Conveniences	...	22
„ Nuisances	...	104
„ Building By-Laws	..	127
„ Petrol Storage	...	28
„ Civil Building Licences	...	135
„ Council Houses	...	26

Number of Premises requiring Sanitary Improvement		72
„ Houses disinfected	...	16
„ Houses treated for Vermin		4
„ Water Samples submitted for analysis		30
„ Sewers repaired or cleaned		64
„ Drains cleansed	...	104
„ Tanks cleaned out	...	156
„ Council Houses minor repairs		82

## Notices, etc.

Informal Notices to Owners or Occupiers	103
Statutory Notices to Owners or Occupiers	Nil
Number of Letters sent out	709

Smoke abatement	...	No action
Swimming Bath	...	None
Bed Bugs	...	No action

## Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by By-Laws or Regulations.

Common Lodging Houses	...	None
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	No action
Slaughterhouses	...	None
Shops	...	No action

### Petroleum Regulations.

No. of Licences issued : —Storage of Petrol	66
Storage of Calcium Carbide	2

### Slaughterman's Licences.

No. of Licences issued	3
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## Housing.

### Erection of New Houses.

#### 1. By Local Authority.

The remaining 54 houses on the Hambleton View Estate, Sutton Road, Thirsk, were completed in 1948. These consisted of 12 four bedroomed, 32 three bedroomed, 4 two bedroomed houses and 6 old people's bungalows.

A programme to deal with the shortage of houses for the agricultural population was put in hand during the year, and building commenced in the parishes of South Otterington (6), Thornton-le-Moor (6), Kirby Hill (8), Kilburn (4) and Knayton (2). All these houses being of normal three and four bedroomed types with the exception of Kilburn, where a special stone faced house was designed to harmonize with the surroundings.



The survey of the area for suitable building sites was continued, and sites earmarked for development in the larger villages not already catered for. In several instances alternatives sites had to be selected owing to the Council's desire not to build on valuable agricultural land.

## 2. By private individuals.

The restriction on the issue of licences for the erection of houses was still in force in 1948. The number and location of licences issued being as follows :—

Thirsk	2	
Sowerby	3	
Holme	1	
Thirkleby	1	(completed in 1948)
Carlton Miniott	1	
Langthorpe	1	
Milby	1	
Knayton	2 conversions	(completed in 1948)

## Rural Housing Survey.

The survey was completed during the year, the figures for the whole area being as follows :—

Satisfactory in all respects	...	630
Minor defects	...	1268
Requiring structural alteration and improvement		549
Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	...	515

Examination of the records of the survey for the purpose of proceeding under the Public Health and Water Acts revealed that 19% of the houses in Thirsk and Sowerby were without internal water supply.

## Action under Housing Act 1936.

Sec. 9 (for repair of unfit houses)	...	Nil
Sec. 11 (for undertaking in respect of, or demolition of unfit houses):		
Notices served	...	3
Undertakings accepted	...	2
Demolition Orders	...	1

## Sec. 59 (Overcrowding)

Abatement Notices served	Nil
Cases abated	19

## Control of Civil Building (other than new houses)

In July the limit of building work permitted without licence was raised from £10 to £100, and the Council became responsible for housing work only.

Licences issued by the Council during the year being as follows :—

	Housing	Other Work
January-June (inclusive)	167	90
July-December (inclusive)	14	Nil
Total value	£13470	£4555

## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

### (a) Milk Supply.

During the year 8 persons were registered as wholesalers and producers of milk.

45 visits were made in connection with milk production.

2 licences were issued during the year for the retail sale of tuberculin tested and pasteurised milk respectively, the T.T. milk being purchased in bottles direct from the farm where produced. The pasteurised milk is brought in by road from a Harrogate dairy.

The total number of Farms and other premises as Dairies on the Register at the end of the year was 206, this included 3 retailers of milk.

### (b) Meat and other Foods.

The slaughtering of animals for food is carried out at the Ministry of Food Abattoir, Northallerton, and the meat conveyed by motor transport to Thirsk and the district for allocation to the butchers.



This vehicle is kept under supervision as also are the butchers' shops for general cleanliness.

During the year the following foods were examined, and found to be unfit for human consumption:—46 tins of Milk, 11 lbs. 2 ozs. Bacon, 31 bottles Sauce, 18 lbs Soya, 2 tins Soup, 21 lbs. Sugar, 1 tin 16 ozs. Peas, 28 tins Fish, 4 lbs. Cherries, 1 tin 26 ozs. Gooseberries, 1 tin 14 ozs. Luncheon Meat, 13 tins Fruit Salad, 17 tins Beetroot, 1 gallon tin and 7 tins Tomatoes, 5 tins Grape Fruit, 2 tins Rhubarb, 27 lbs. 8 ozs. Peaches, 11 tins Plums, 7 tins Apricots, 7 tins Carrots, 2 tins Meat Roll, 2½ cwt. Beans, 18 tins Puddings, 110 tins Dessert Mould, 23 cartons (12 ozs.) Shredded Wheat, 1 tin Jam.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F. METCALFE,

Surveyor, Chief Sanitary Inspector and  
Certified Inspector of Meat & Other Foods.





